

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

a1 Referring to FIG. 2a, there is shown another embodiment of the invention. The embodiment of FIG. 2 has the elements of FIG. 1, and additional elements. Downmixing combiner 23 has a plurality of input terminals 24-1....24-n and has an output that is coupled to input 12. Combining circuit 28 has a plurality of input terminals 30-1...30-n and has an output coupled to input 14. Combining circuit 23 receives channels A-1....A-n at inputs 24-1....24-n respectively, and combines channels A-1....A-n to form channel A. Combining circuit 28 receives channels B-1....B-n at inputs 30-1...30-n respectively, and combines channels B-1....B-n to form channel B. This embodiment illustrates the principle that the channels combined by the invention may be channels that have been formed by combining ("downmixing") other channels. Combining circuitry 23 and 28 can be one of a number of different downmixing circuits. ~~One example is described in U.S. Pat. App. \_\_\_\_.~~ Combining circuitry 23 and 28 may have a plurality of cascaded stages for combining the signals input at the input terminals.